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Anti-Cancer Strategies Targeting Epigenetic Readers, Writers and Erasers

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Author declares no conflicts associated with the work presented



Epigenetic 'readers, writers and erasers'









'Drugging chromatin'



Combined inhibition of BET family proteins and HDACs as a potential **epigenetics-based therapy** for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. Mazur *et al., Nat Med* 2015.

'Drugging chromatin'



Bromodomain & extraterminal domain (BET) family includes BRD2/BRD3/BRD4/BRDT JQ1

> JQ1 blocks BRD4 from reading acetyl groups on histones and could halt progression of some cancers.



High-throughput screening in cell-based assays, >80,000 drugs/natural products \rightarrow sulforaphane

BRD4

HDAC3 turnover by dietary isothiocyanates



Immunoaffinity purification using acetyl-Lys antibodies→protein mass spectrometry.
CCAR2 was the earliest target for acetylation by SFN in human colon cancer cells.

•Cell Cycle and Apoptosis Regulator 2 (CCAR2) is a 'master regulator' of metabolism, aging, and cancer' EN Chini *et al.*, 2013.



CCAR2 acetylation precedes histone acetylation



Identifying the CCAR2 acetylation sites







CCAR2 null cells are rescued by WT CCAR2



CCAR2 is a *coactivator* of Wnt/β-catenin signaling



Colorectal cancer (CRC)





Wnt/ β -catenin signaling is diminished by SFN



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RESEARCH



CXXC4 LRG1

CCAR2/β-catenin interactions are reduced by SFN



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CCAR2/ β -catenin interactions are reduced in humans



Crucifer Low Crucifer High











Crucifer Low Crucifer High

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β-catenin/CCAR2, PLA
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MMP7



Cyclin D1



'Readers' of acetylated proteins

'Functions of bromodomain-containing proteins and their roles in homeostasis and cancer' – Fujisawa & Filippa*kop*oulos 2017



Identifying 'readers' of acetylated CCAR2



SFN+JQ1: BRD9-regulated targets are implicated

C



Pathway Enrichment (SFN+JQ1), n=324 genes



С	SFN+JQ1-specific genes		
•	Gene	Fold-change	
	Misp3	3.95	-
	Krt39	3.19	
	Anxa13	2.76	Upregulated
	Apobec2	2.63	1 0
	Sorcs1	2.52	
	lgfbp1	-2.54	
	Lix1	-2.54	
	Mettl7b	-2.55	
	Tmem14a	-2.64	
	Csf3	-2.71	
	Chga	-2.85	
	Klk8	-3.08	Downregulated
	Tnnl2	-3.38	
	Shh	-3.69	
	Reg3b	-3.90	
	Tubal3	-4.14	
	Prl2a1	-5.56	
	Ercc2	-6.25	



Working model for SFN+JQ1







Summary



Prior to SFN-mediated histone acetylation, CCAR2 was acetylated at K54/K97/K916 sites, which interfered with protein-protein interactions involving HDAC3 and β -catenin.



Altered β-catenin/CCAR2 interactions and subcellular localization interfered with the Wnt co-activator role of CCAR2.



Loss of CCAR2/ β -catenin interactions and downregulation of β -catenin/Tcf targets were implicated in a screening colonoscopy trial, in human subjects reporting high vs. low intake of cruciferous vegetables – a surrogate for SFN intake and deacetylase inhibition.



'Readers' of acetyl CCAR2 were identified using protein domain arrays, and included BET members BRD2/BRD3 (known targets of JQ1), and BRD9 (which is not inhibited by JQ1).



JQ1+SFN had enhanced efficacy in human colon cancer cells, mouse xenografts, and the Pirc model of FAP, with evidence for downregulation of Wnt/ β -catenin signaling.



A working model for JQ1+SFN proposes competition between acetyl 'readers', and a shift towards increased BRD9-mediated chromatin interactions and target genes.





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Questions?

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